Under Base Running Rules of the Early Seventies, Ty Cobb Might Have Stolen 200 Bases Without Exerting Himself

BASE STEALING A PLAY THAT THRILLS.

Regarded as One of Most Attractive Departments of National Pastime.

WAS RECOGNIZED IN 1871

Stovey Made 156 Steals in 1888-Record for Major Leagues.

By PREDERICK G. LIEB.

No department of baseball is more interesting than base running. Nothing is so thrilling in Uncle Sam's great pastime as the sight of the base runner leaving his haven at first, second of third base and making a dash for the succeeding station. Doubtless from the very incention of the sport base running thrilled the fans of the late '60s, '70s and early '80s, though the game had been early '86s, though the game had been established on a pretty firm foundation before base runners received any offi-

When official recognition finally was granted and the major leagues decided to keep tabe on the number of bares stolen by their more zealous athletes the player was given great freedom. Steals in the old days were easy com-pared with base larcenies of to-day. The old rules were lax and men could be given steals on any protext, the rules even permitting steals to be granted on effors such as wild throws and muffs.

Ty Cobb of Ed Collins could have chalked up 200 steals in the old days casier than it is for them to click off seventy-five in the present era.

Stovey Holds Record.

It always has been a mystery to the fan of the present generation how the old boys of the past could reel off 100 or more stolen bases a year. George Stovey of the old Athletics of the Amerigan Association holds the big lesque rec-ord with 156 steals in 1888. That looks like a remarkable figure to shoot at. Ty Gobb of Petroit established a new modcopp of Petroit established a new mod-ern record in 1915, when he stole ninety-six bases. Strangely enough in the same year Max Carey of the Pittsburg Pirates won the National League base running championship with the lowest figure yet recorded—thirty-six steals. However, thirty-six steals is more typical of the twentieth century than ninety-six, which is an abnormal number under present

Base running really has not deterio-rated. It has advanced along with other departments of baseball, despite the fact that Cap Anson casts a dissenting vote. George Stovey was a remarkable base runner, but it is doubtful if he would have stolen more than fifty-six bases under present conditions.

ances of the base runner, not only point-ing to it as valuable to cun getting but runs and rouging the spectators to wild also as an inspiring and attractive ex-dibition to the spectator. enable mention on the official books.

When Base Stenling Started.

Little attention was paid by the scorers to stolen bases in the olden days. The words "stolen bases" were not thought of, or at least not used, until 1871. Before that "mar when referring to a "steal" the word "made" was invariably employed in a perfunctory manner. "Made his base" meant the current "stole" whatever have he word thought of, or at least not used, until 1871. Before that wer when referring to a "steal" the worl "made" was invariably employed in a perfunctory manner. "Made his base" meant the gunner "stole" whatever base he was "making" for. It was sometimes an exciting spectacle, no doubt, and caused cheers from the spectators, but the runner got no official credit.

In 1871 in an article on scoring the words "stolen base" were for the first time used. By the time 1875 rolled along (the second year of the National League) base running came into more prominent notice. Writers of those days began to realize the importance of the department and were loud in their action which is remained out until 1886, during which ances of the base runner, not only point—

combined as an inspiring and attractive exhibition to the spectator.

They tell us that "club managers have learned by experience the importance of making good, sharp base running a feature in training their teams," and "it requires more headwork in excelling in it than the large majority of players possess," and again, "it is amusing to hear a player of the defeated nine say. "Well, we outplayed them in the field and "the more proposed in the first instance by brilliant base running and in the second by the season, and also was a greyhound on the paths. Ma won his first permantic that season, and d by these base running tents."

printed its rules, and after it had sent ing pitchers. Its copy to the printer. It hurriedly added these lines to its code of rules:

Dave

SPEED BOYS OF PAST AND PRESENT, WHO HAVE DAZZLED FANS BY BRILLIANT WORK ON BASE PATHS



More Money Needed for Training Camp Fund Topsy Hartsel, Who Has

> Shortage of Boxing Gloves, Baseballs, Footballs and Other Athletic Paraphernalia at Army Cantonments.

Record of Haring

led Both Leafuer in Base Stealing.

was not so strong on speed as in head National League evidently got a copy of this American Association rule before it could get a remarkable start on opposedded these lines to its code of rules:
"Bases stolen by players shall appear to their credit in the aummary of the game." As will be seen, the American association placed the record in the fourth column of the "box" score. In 1887 the joint rules committee came into existence, and the rule, word for word as adopted by the American Association, became the law of the land in baseball.

Read the rule over again carefully and compare it with the present regulation. The reader will not be astonished that in the first year of the rule (1885)

G. Ed Andrews of the Philadelphia team of the National League stole fifty-six bases and Frank Fennelly of the Cincil stole sixty-five. It is a wonder the stole sixty-five.

cinnati team of the American Association stole sixty-five. It is a wonder
they did not purioin more. They are
two ploneer record robbers and deserved
the niches prepared for them.

Record Claim Steals.

"Clean steals" counted first, those time.

making good, sharp base running a feat written, are forever lost. We have our interesting to the American Learne with it is received to the foreign of the agency of the second by the second part of a game gailantly won or miserably possess," and agrin, "it is a maring to be a game gailantly work on the bases."

Base Stealing Department Given

Official Recognition in 1886

Thanky, in 1884, the base runner was a base control of the control

whe he reside of the folion bases in 1911. The was the hard National Long with a second to the secon

Bob Bescher, Greatest Modern Base Stealer in National League

the proper record robbers and deserved two ploneer record robbers and deserved two plones robbers and deserved the properties of the campionships of the commission's system and part of the commission's syste

MODERN PLAYERS EASY TO TAG OUT

Evers Declares Base Runners Are Not as Fast as Men of Ten Years Ago.

COBB HARDEST TO TOLOR

Two intelligent and able athletes, one from each league, John J. Evers free agent at present, and Ray Chapman, Cleveland shortstop, come to the frent with information as to who are the lest base runners on the major lengue itcuits, the men who are not cole the factest, but who are the hardest to put out. Naturally Chapman doce not have

out. Naturally Chapman does not have a chance to include bilanself in the group of scientific sack snatchers, but of course he does include the well known feerga Peach, Ty Cobb. He gives that milly vidual the place of honor on his just some of Evera's scientions sufficiently surprise. John incidentally declares he had a very hard time to pick five for men who were hard to tag out.

"If you wanted a list of men fact and hard to stop stealing of ten years against the Trojan, "I could give you twenty-five names for it, but of late that department of the game his local intra and brilliance.
"In the last four or five years time have been, and are, in the National

"In the last four or five years there have been, and are, in the Nathers League five men hard to touch and they are all fast men, too. The five are clars of the Pirates, Whitted of the Philing. Maranyllie of the Braves, home of the Cardinals and Stengel, who has just gone from Brooklyn to Philishers.

"It is difficult to find even file, and while there are plenty of very fast men in the league, still they are comparatively easy to touch. In fact home of the five I have mentioned compares with Bill Dahlen, Jimmy Sheekard, Frank Chance, Fred Clarke or many others of the past in the old league.

Cobb Leads 'Em All.

Chapman has no hesitancy in saving that Tyrus Cobb is the hardest man a base and gives many reasons for this apert opinion.

Reason No. 1 is because Ty is so fast Reason No. 2 is because Type ine best lider in the game. Reason No. 3 is because Typicke Reason No. 3 is because Ty thinks faster than any other player.
Reason No. 4 hast but by no means least, is because you never know just how Ty is coming into the baz.
Chapman says that time and again, if you keep the ball where you receive it after taking the throw from its catcher, you'll probably retire Ty more often than otherwise. Bay invista that when he takes a throw from its catcher.

often than otherwise. Ray insists that when he takes a throw from t's rat her in front of the bag and whit's around expecting Ty to try to come in bahad the Peach will alide right in where the throw originally came, and vive versu. Further remarks by Chapper regarding Cobb are that when Ty is trying for a bag the catcher naturally hurrish his throw, with the result that often it isn't as good as it is in the case when another man is sliding. "Id rather ento touch a man out who is trying to steal than do anything else," sais the Cleveland shortstop. "Cobb waters mannest."

most."

No. 2 on Chapman's list of a ful sliders is Edward Teowhride or less of the White Sox, of the same of the White Sox, of the same of the Cobb but not nearly so given is any respect. Expert Chapman arkers eight that Columbia's best known craftists worries him a good deal when he cones sliding into the keystone. sliding into the keystone sach much as Cobb, however," say . Its

Mike McNally Fools Basemen.

Chapman's third selection of hard ARRANGE TOURNEY | men to tag is more or less prise-Michael Joseph McNath who comes from Minooka, I'a, ment that also has given to Steve O'Neill of the Indians on

COLLEGE CHESS MEN

stitutions in Interleague Matches.

Shorten of the former world; pions. Chapman cannot figure McNally is a hard man to to when he hits the dirt, wheth because Mike is fast and marrially clumsy going the "All I do know," says Illa. Representatives of Seven In-Columbia, Harvard, Vale and Princeon, representing the C. H. Y. P. Chess

Association, and Correct

Association and Correct

Ass Association, and Cornell, City College American League to tag w.

Association, and Cornell, City College and Pennsylvania of the Triangular College Chess League will send players to New York for the interleague team match on ten boards to be contested in the rooms of the Brooklyn Chess Club. The date was definitely fixed for February I3 yestorday. That will be the day following the individual college tournament to be held in connection with the State meeting at the New York Press Club, which will be an added attraction for the out of town college players. In addition Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania, the respective American League to tag with the tag wi

twelve times, Stengel sixteen to twenty-three times and White times. The Pirates' base rand